

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-02 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SAM-01 INRE-00 PRS-01 (ISO) W

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O 201600Z MAY 75 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1915

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: DPC RESTRICTED SESSION: MEETING OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE
WITH SYG LUNS

REF: A.;STE 116749

B. STATE 115823

1. AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET MAY 20 WITH SYG LUNS TO DISCUSS HANDLING
OF DPC MINISTERIAL RESTRICTED SESSION (STATE 116749) AND IN COURSE
OF DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO PROPOSED DPC MINISTERIAL COM-
MUNIQUE FORMULATING ON SPAIN (STATE 115823), WHICH HAD BEEN CON-
VEYED TO LUNS AND PERMREPS BY LETTER MAY 20.

2. SYG SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY IN FAVOR OF AS MANY NATO LINKS AS
POSSIBLE WITH SPAIN, BUT BELIEVED IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO HOPE FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN ANYTHING LIKE A SHORT TERM. EVEN SOME FORM OF ASSOCIA-
TION, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, SYG AID
HE STRONGLY FAVORED THE US ATTEMPT AT THIS TIME, IF ONLY TO BEGIN
ERODING THE OPPOSITION WITH A VIEW TO SECURING CONCRETE RESULTS
LATER ON. SYG LATER REPEATED THAT HE WAS "IN FAVOR OF PURSHING" THE
CURRENT US ATTEMPT BYT BELIEVED THAT THE PROPOSED US FORMULA-
TION FOR THE DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE (REF B) WHICH WAS IN
BRUCE'S MAY 20 LETTER TO HIM, MIGHT GET WATERED DOWN. HE SPECULATED
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THAT INSTEAD OF SAYING SPAIN "CONTINUES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN
SUPPORT OF THE NATO DEFENSE EFFORT", IT MIGHT HE USEFUL TO SUBSTITUTE
SOMETHING LIKE "PLAYS A ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE."
MISSION COMMENT: SYG DID NOT KNOW OF PROPOSED US FALL-BACK IN

REF B WHICH WE MAY USE WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY, IN DRC COMMUNIQUE SESSION.
END COMMENT.

3. FURTHER RE SPAIN, LUNS MENTIONED THAT WHEN HE WAS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TEN DAYS OR SO AGO, THE LATTER TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NO PERSONAL PROBLEMS WITH CLOSER SPANISH-NATO LINKS, BUT EVEN IF GERMANY PROMOTING GREATER SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE VIEWS HELD BY CERTAIN IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF HIS PWN PARTY AS WELL AS BY AN INFLUENTIAL SEGMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION. CONCERNING PRESIDENT FORD'S PLANNED VISIT TO SPAIN, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS TOLD THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO HIM THAT HE HIMSELF THINKS IT IS A GOOD THING THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO SPAIN.

4. LUNS UNDERSTOOD THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER DOES NOT WISH TO LEAD IN THE RESTRICTED SESSION DISCUSSED ON THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN THE NEDITERRANEAN ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY WILL NATURALLY BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A DISCUSSION. LUNS ADDED THAT AT THE PERMREPS LUNCH MAY 20, HE WOULD BE INFORMING THE PERMREPS THAT HE EXPECTS THEIR MINISTERS TO REPLY WHEN HE RAISES THIS SUBJECT IN THE RESTRICTED SESSION.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR BRUCE LEFT WITH LUNS TALING POINTS DRAWN DIRECTLY FROM REF A THAT ARE BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.
BRUCE.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02809
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750599/abbrzkcf.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.;STE 116749 B. STATE 115823
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DPC RESTRICTED SESSION: MEETING OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE WITH SYG LUNS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006